

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 2-4 directed to non-elected species, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Because all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, **the restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on 8/9/2010 is hereby withdrawn.** In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the rejoined inventions, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Hunter on 2/22/2012.

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The application has been amended as follows:

CLAIMS:

Claim 13 is cancelled.

1. (currently amended): A roll for use in a galvanizing pot, comprising a hollow body, and shaft portions connected to said body, said body being made of a silicon nitride ceramic having thermal conductivity of 50 W/(m.K) or more at room temperature, said body having an average surface roughness Ra of 1-20 μm , and said shaft portions being made of ceramics,

wherein an inner surface of said body comprises large-diameter regions on both ends and a small-diameter region in between the large diameter regions, and each of said shaft portions is an integral hollow cylinder having a small-diameter portion, a large-diameter portion and a flange connecting said small-diameter portion and said large-diameter portion, said small-diameter portion and said large-diameter portion of each of said shaft portions have approximately the same thickness, and the large-diameter region of said body is connected to and in direct contact with the large-diameter portion of said shaft portion, ~~and~~

wherein said flange expands in outer and inner diameter from said small-diameter portion to said large-diameter portion, and

wherein said flange is in direct contact with an axial end surface of said hollow body.

The above claim amendment is made to further define that the flanges are in direct contact with the axial end surfaces of the hollow body.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SARANG AFZALI whose telephone number is (571)272-8412. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00-3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571) 272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SARANG AFZALI/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3726

2/22/2012